

Title: **1,300 networked devices in Algona School District**
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1,300 networked devices in Algona School District

By Alan Van Ormer
 Editor

Technology in the Algona Public School District continues to grow.

Currently, the school district maintains more than 1,300-networked devices for students and staff, according to Technology

Coordinator Jackie Fonley. In addition, students in grades 3-12 now have one-to-one chrome-book devices. Fonley provided a school technology update during the Sept. 12 Algona Community School District board meeting.

Fonley said that students in kindergarten through second grade would have 1:1 chromebook devices in the 2016-2017 school year. Chromebooks are refreshed for fifth grade, eighth grade and 11th grade each year.

Ten years ago, a middle school library computer lab was created, projectors were being placed in classrooms and two high school computer labs were updated. Five years ago, the high school and

middle school received a new phone system, there was a network switch upgrade, new network cabling was installed and the system was upgraded to 100 megabytes of bandwidth.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the school district is updating operating system for teacher and lab computers. In addition, there will be additional Wi-Fi access points to handle the increased number of devices.

A secondary back up Internet connection has been added. In ad-

dition to the 260 mega bytes per second (Mbps) connection from ICN, the school district has added a 200 Mbps connection from the Algona Municipal Utilities. Five years ago the school district had a 9 mbps connection.

The school district replaced printers district wide with multi-function devices and added additional computers and iPads in elementary classrooms.

The school district budgets \$200,000 annually for its technology programs.